

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all earlier versions of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making an alignment layer on a wall of a liquid crystal cell, comprising imparting a property to a layer of a material on the wall, said property being that when liquid crystal molecules are placed on the layer they will adopt a preferred alignment,

the method comprising exposing the layer of material to unpolarized or circularly polarized radiation from an oblique direction,

wherein the property of the alignment layer imparts a preferred tilt as well as a preferred azimuthal alignment to such liquid crystal molecules,

wherein multiple local zones of the layer of material are exposed to radiation, the oblique angle of the radiation being uniform within each local zone but different between two or more zones, by interposing a microelement array between the source of the radiation and the layer of material to generate the locally different oblique radiations on the multiple zones in one radiation ~~irradiation~~ step, and such liquid crystal molecules are zonewise aligned.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, where the radiation ~~irradiation~~ energy, measured normal to the radiation, is less than 2 J/cm^2 .

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the radiation is ultraviolet.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the alignment is such that the longitudinal axis of the liquid crystal molecules is in the plane including the normal to the layer and the direction of the radiation.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the alignment layer imparts a preferred tilt exceeding ~~imparted tilt exceeds~~ 45° to the plane of the layer.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 5, wherein the alignment layer imparts a preferred tilt exceeding ~~imparted tilt exceeds~~ 75° to the plane of the layer.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the preferred tilt that has been imparted is substantially homeotropic ~~layer of material is substantially homeotropically orienting.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the angle of incidence φ of the radiation to the normal to the layer of material is within the range $5 \leq \varphi \leq 70^\circ$.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the angle of incidence φ of the radiation to the normal to the layer of material is $> 45^\circ$.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the layer of material is cross-linked by the radiation ~~irradiation~~.

11-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal cell wall bearing a layer of material, wherein the layer of material has been exposed to unpolarised a circularly polarised radiation from an oblique direction, wherein multiple local zones of the layer of material have been exposed to radiation, the oblique angle of the radiation being uniform within each local zone but different between two or more zones, by interposing a microelement array between the source of the radiation and the layer of material to generate the locally different oblique radiations on the multiple zones in one radiation ~~irradiation~~ step, and wherein the layer of material can impart an alignment to liquid crystal molecules if placed on the layer of material, wherein liquid crystal molecules placed on the layer of material would be zonewise aligned.

14. (Original) A liquid crystal cell of which at least one wall in contact with liquid crystal material is according to claim 13.

15. (Original) A liquid crystal cell according to claim 14, which is vertically aligned nematic.

16. (Original) A liquid crystal cell according to claim 14, which is hybrid aligned nematic.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the microelement array is a microlens array.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the microelement array is a microprism array.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the microelement array is a hologram element.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the microelement array is an array of micro-mirrors.